some bilateral issues remain to be resolved.

The Government remain committed to strengthening of cooperative and mutually beneficial relations with Bangladesh. For this purpose, dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh at functional and senior levels, coupled with our endevaouis to expand bilateral trade, particularly with the involvement of the private sector and joint ventures, stepping up of commercial interactions and cultural cooperation countinue.

**Indian Companies help to build Iran's Poisonous Gas Complex**

2478. SHRI 1NDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report captioned 'India aiding Iran's nerve gas units' which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 31st January, 1995 regarding the help rendered by Indian companies to Iran in building a secret poison gas complex; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is baseless. The three Indian companies identified in the news report arc involved in a project for the construction of a pesticide plant in Iran. The project was awarded to the Indian companies as a result of an open, international tender in which companies from all over the world participated.

**Contribution to ODA by the Developed Countries**

2479. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the developed countries, at their recently held Summit-meeting in Copenhagen, have rejected the demand made by India and the other developing nations for a timeframe to contribute 0.7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product to the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 10th March, 1995;

(b) whether the rich and the poor countries who met for the first-time to work out ways and means for poverty eradication and full employment, among other social issues, arrived at any consensus on the need of increasing allocation to developing countries at least by 20 percent of ODA;

(c) if so, what are the details of discussions held at Copenhagen Summit and whether Indian delegation felt satisfied at the outcome of the meeting at the UN Summit for Social Development; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The World Summit for Social Development recognized that the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of action in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, will need additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation and assistance. Though the developed countries did not agree with the suggestion to achieve the target of 0.7% of Gross National Product (GNP) as official development assistance (ODA) by 2000 AD, the summit did agree to strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target as soon as possible, and for increasing the share of funding for social

development programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of the Declaration and the Programme of action. It also agreed on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on an average, 20% of ODA and 20% of national budget respectively to basic social programmes.

The Summit addressed issues of crucial concern to humanity, in particular the underpriviledgcd, in a timely and constructive manner, India had played a significant role in the preparatory process of the Summit and the Indian delegation was satisfied with the outcome of the Summit.

(d) The Summit marks the commencement of a changed international agenda for construction of a new society. As a developing country dedicated to social uplift, India was happy to sec the international community focussing its energies on vital issues such as eradication of proverty, generation of employment, social integration, and global mobilisation of resources for social development. India trusts that international cooperation will rcinvigorate itself in implementing the far-reaching decisions of the Summit.

**Acquisition of Swedish Fighter Planes By Pakistan**

2480. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government arc aware that Pakistan has decided to opt for the highly advanced Swedish fighter plane, .TAS 39;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Pakistani delegation had gone to Sweden to familiarise itself with the statc-of-thc art plane;

(c) if so, the number of fighter planes proposed to be purchased by Pakistan from that country; and

(d) what is the reaction of the Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government are aware of efforts by Pakistan to acquire aircrafts from various countries, including Sweden.

(b) and (c) Government have seen reports to the effect that a Pakistani delegation visited Sweden recently in this connection. However, according to information available, no deal has been finalised so far.

(d) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

**Chemical Weapon Complex of Iran**

2481. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item which appeared in the Washington Times' and also in the 'Indian Express' dated the 1st February, 1995 to the effect that according to the highly classified German Intelligence report, Tehran is only months away from completion of the chemical weapons complex built with the aid of Indian Companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the names of Indian Companies cited in the Report; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news reports which alleged that three Indian Comapnies, *i.e.* Tata Consulting Engineering, Transpek and Rallis India, were involved in the setting up of a secret poison gas complex in Iran.